



# *STEM Education Summit*

Tom Luna  
Idaho Superintendent of Public  
Instruction



# STEM in K-12

- Students need strong knowledge and skills in STEM to be successful in postsecondary education and in careers after high school.
- We have made great progress in K-12 to increase STEM education.



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**



# Idaho Math Initiative

- Created in 2007
- The Idaho Math Initiative is a statewide effort to raise student achievement in mathematics across all grade levels.
- Math is the foundation of STEM.



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**



# Mathematical Thinking for Instruction

- MTI is a teacher professional development course that focuses on pedagogy and content.
- Two-thirds of teachers and administrators have completed the required three-credit course, to date.



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**



# Apangea Math

- Apangea is a web-based math program that supplements instruction in the classroom for students who struggle and those who excel.
- Progress on Apangea:
  - Nearly 8 million problems solved this school year!
  - Students have spent 193,871 hours solving complex math problems this year. (up 60% from last year)



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**



# Pay-for-Performance

- Through Students Come First, local school districts are now able to provide bonuses for teachers who will work in hard-to-fill positions.
- Schools can use this funding to attract and retain teachers for STEM subject areas.



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**



# Equal Access

- Idaho needs an estimated 900 new math and science teachers.
- Not all these teachers exist and can be hired in the next five years.
- We must create a uniform system of public schools that provides equal access to the best educational opportunities for all Idaho students.



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**



# Equal Access

- Through statewide initiatives and Students Come First, we are creating equal access across Idaho:
  - Idaho Education Network
  - Wireless learning environments in high school
  - 1:1 ratio of students and teachers to laptop devices in high school
  - Ongoing investments in advanced classroom technology



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**



# Summary

- Math is the foundation of STEM.
- The state launched the Idaho Math Initiative in 2007.
- The state is providing funding for local districts to attract and retain more teachers in hard-to-fill STEM positions.
- The state is making unprecedented investments to ensure every student has equal access to the best educational opportunities, no matter where they live.



**STUDENTS COME FIRST**

